

Child, 11, believed handcuffed in basement for months; Ottawa RCMP officer, wife charged

BY MEGHAN HURLEY, OTTAWA CITIZEN FEBRUARY 14, 2013



Ottawa police have charged an Ottawa RCMP officer and his wife following a child abuse investigation.

Photograph by: Jean Levac, Ottawa Citizen

OTTAWA — A 41-year-old RCMP officer and his 34-year-old wife are accused of aggravated sexual assault, failing to provide the necessities of life and forcible confinement after a child abuse investigation.

According to police sources, the charges come after an 11-year-old was found wandering an Ottawa neighbourhood, starving and dehydrated. The child is believed to have been confined with shackles and handcuffs in a basement for several months.

The child's injuries are still being assessed, sources say.

Ottawa police said the officer was arrested Tuesday after an investigation at his residence. He is charged with three counts of aggravated assault, three counts of assault with a weapon, and one count each of aggravated sexual assault, failing to provide the necessities of life and forcible confinement.

The woman is charged with three counts of aggravated assault, two counts of assault with a weapon, and with failing to provide the necessities of life and forcible confinement.

As of Wednesday the man was suspended with pay from his service as an RCMP officer and an internal investigation was underway, said Cpl. Lucy Shorey of RCMP A Division.

The officer has also not been on active duty since May of 2011.

Shorey said she could not give details about why the man hasn't been on active duty, how long the man has worked for the RCMP or in what capacity for several reasons, including wanting to protect the identity of the youth involved.

Police say they won't release the name of the accused to protect the identity of the victim.

Both accused were expected to appear in court Thursday.

Anyone with information can call the Ottawa police sexual assault/child abuse unit at 613-236-1222, extension 5944.

With files from Andrew Seymour and Shaamini Yogaretnam

mhurley@ottawacitizen.com

twitter.com/meghan_hurley

© Copyright (c) The Ottawa Citizen